

Welch, Charles

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HISTORY —
OF THE
— MONUMENT

*Published by Authority of the
City Lands Committee
of the Corporation of London.*

—
SIXTH EDITION.
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PRICE THREE PENCE.

— ♦ —
BY
CHARLES WELCH, F.S.A.,
*Late Librarian to the Corporation
of London.*

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LONDON, 1921.





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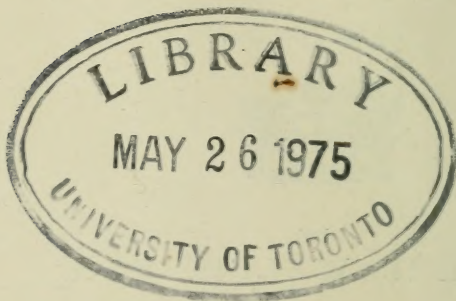
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HISTORY

OF THE

MONUMENT OF LONDON.

CHAPTER I.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.

 HIS famous pillar, built to commemorate the Great Fire of London, stands in the small open square known as Monument Yard, on the east side of Fish Street Hill. This thoroughfare is described by Stow as the northern continuation of Bridge Street, "commonly called (of the Fishmarket) New Fishstreete," where, he says, "be fishmongers and fayre tauerns; on Fishstreete hill and Grassestreete, men of diuers trades, grocers and habardashers." Here, in ancient times, stood the famous market-place of which Eastcheap still denotes the situation, but which also probably extended from Billingsgate and the Bridge at one end to

Leadenhall at the other. Fish Street Hill was in the line of approach to old London Bridge, and formed the principal and, until the building of the first Blackfriars Bridge in 1769, the only highway between London and Southwark. Since the removal of London Bridge to the westward, the Monument, standing back from the main thoroughfare, has lost much of its former prominence. Some time ago, however, it gave its name to the neighbouring station of the District Railway. Monument Yard occupies the site of the church and churchyard of St. Margaret, New Fish Street. The parish was united with that of St. Magnus after the Great Fire of London, and the church of St. Margaret, which Stow describes as “a proper church but without monuments,” was not re-built.

In 1667 an Act of Parliament was passed (19 Charles II, chapter 3) “for re-building the City of London,” the 29th section of which provides as follows:—“And the better to preserve the memory of this dreadful Visitation, Be it further enacted, That a Columne or Pillar of Brase or Stone be erected on or as neere unto the place where the said Fire soe unhappily began as conveniently may be,

in perpetuall Remembrance thereof, with such Inscription thereon, as hereafter by the Maior and Court of Aldermen in that behalfe be directed." For carrying out the purposes of this Act the Corporation were empowered by a subsequent section to levy a duty of twelve pence a ton upon all coals brought into the Port of London. The construction of the Column was confided to the masterly hands of Sir Christopher Wren, who prepared several designs. The selection and approval of his final design was made only after the careful consideration of several alternative plans which he had submitted.

Wren at first proposed a more characteristic pillar, with sculptured flames of gilt bronze issuing from the loopholes of the shaft, and a phoenix on the summit rising from her ashes, also of gilt bronze. This, on further consideration, he found unsuitable, and then designed a statue of Charles II, 15 feet high. The statue was, however, found to be impracticable, on the ground of expense, and the present vase of flames was therefore substituted.

The following letter of Sir Christopher Wren, printed by Elmes, in his biography of

the great architect, fully describes his views as to the most suitable ornament for the summit of the Monument:—"In pursuance of an order of the Committee for City Lands, I doe herewith offer the several designes which some monthes since I shewed his Majestie, for his approbation; who was then pleased to thinke a large ball of metall gilt would be most agreeable, in regard it would give an ornament to the town, at a very great distance; not that his Majestie disliked a statue; and if any proposal of this sort be more acceptable to the city, I shall most readily represent the same to his Majestie. I cannot but comend a large statue, as carrying much dignitie with it; and that which would be more vallueable in the eyes of forreiners and strangers. It hath been proposed to cast such a one in brasse, of twelve foot high, for £1,000. I hope (if it be allowed) wee may find those who will cast a figure for that money, of fifteen foot high, which will suit the greatness of the pillar, and is (as I take it) the largest at this day extant; and this would undoubtedly bee the noblest finishing that can be found answerable to soe goodly a worke, in all men's judgments. A ball of copper,

nine foot diameter, cast in severall pieces, with the flames and gilt, may well be done, with the iron worke and fixing, for £350; and this will be most acceptable of any thing inferior to a statue, by reason of the good appearance at distance, and because one may goe up into it, and upon occasion use it for fireworks. A phoenix was at first thought of and is the ornament in the wooden modell of the pillar, which I caused to be made before it was begun; but, upon second thoughtes, I rejected it, because it will be costly, not easily understood at that highth, and worse understood at a distance; and lastly, dangerous by reason of the sayle the spread winges will carry in the winde. The balcony must be made of substantiall well forged worke, there being noe need, at that distance, of filed worke; and I suppose (for I cannot exactly guesse the weight), it may be well performed and fixed, according to a good designe, for fourscore and ten poundes, including painting. All which is humbly submitted to your consideration.

(Signed) CHRISTOPHER WREN.

July 28, 1675."

The Monument, as ultimately carried out, is of the Doric order, and constructed of Portland stone. It consists of a pedestal about 21 feet square and 40 feet high, with a plinth of 28 feet square, and a fluted shaft 120 feet high and 15 feet in diameter. On the abacus is a balcony encompassing a moulded cylinder, which supports a flaming vase of gilt bronze, indicating its commemoration of the Great Fire. Defoe quaintly describes the Monument as "built in the form of a candle," the top making a "handsome gilt flame like that of a candle." Its entire height is 202 feet, stated in the inscription on its north side to be equal to its distance eastward from the house where the fire broke out, at the house of the King's bakers in Pudding Lane.

The Monument is loftier than the pillars of Trajan and Antoninus at Rome; and it is not only the loftiest but also the finest isolated stone column in the world. Within is a staircase of 345 black marble steps, opening to the balcony, whence the view of the Metropolis, especially of the Port of London, is very interesting. In one respect it is finer than that from the height of St. Paul's Cathedral, since it includes a view of the Cathedral's dome.

The work of construction occupied six years, namely, from 1671 to 1677, much hindrance being caused by the difficulty of getting a sufficient quantity of Portland stone of the necessary dimensions. This occasioned a proclamation from the King, dated Whitehall, 4th May, 1669, forbidding any person to transport stone from the isle of Portland without leave from Dr. Christopher Wren, the Surveyor General. The emblematical sculpture on the west side was executed by Caius Gabriel Cibber, the sculptor, and the four dragons at the base were the work of Edward Pierce, jun., a sculptor and architect who was frequently employed by Wren. A model, scale one-eighth of an inch to a foot, of the scaffolding used in building the Monument is preserved. It formerly belonged to Sir William Chambers, and was presented by Mr. Heathcote Russell, C.E., to the late Sir Isambard Brunel, who left it to his son, Mr. J. K. Brunel. The ladders were of the rude construction of Wren's time, two uprights with nailed treads or rounds on the face.

In a manuscript preserved in the Guildhall Library (MS. 184, fol. 41), which contains

particulars of expenses incurred by the Corporation in re-erecting public buildings after the Fire of London, is the following account of sums expended in the construction of the Monument:—

THE PILLAR ON NEW FISH STREET HILL IN
MEMORIAL OF THE FIRE. OUT OF THE
COLE MONEY.

	li	s.	d.
1671. Aprill 8. Paid Joshua Marshall Mason by Order dated 20 th March 1670 on Accom ^{tt} for erecting the Pillar neer the place where the ffire began -	300	00	00
July 7 [to] Octobr 24. [Five other like payments to him amounting to]- - - - -	1,300	00	00
Nov ^r 11. Paid Nicholas Duncomb by Order dated 3 ^d Novem ^r 1671 for carrying away rubbish from the ffoundaçon of the said Pillar - - - -	73	08	00
Decem ^r 15 [to] ffeb ^r 24, 1672. Paid Joshua Marshall [at ten different times] - - -	2,700	00	00

1673. June 28. Paid Gabriel Cibber Sculpter Cl ⁱ by Ord ^r 26 th June 1673 for carving the Hieroglifick ffigures on the ffront of the publicke Col- lume on New ffish street hill	li s. d.	100 00 00
July 9. Paid Mr. Marshall by Order dated 6 th July 1673 -		500 00 00
Octob ^r 9. Paid Gabriel Cibber Sculpter Mason by Order dated 7 th Octob ^r 1673 on Accom ^{tt} for carveing the heiroglyphick ffigures on the Colume - - - - -		50 00 00
25. Paid him more by Ord ^r dated 22 Octob ^r 1673 - -		100 00 00
31. Paid Tho: Woodhouse Carpenter by Ord 16 th April 1673 - - - - -		35 00 00
Novem ^r 17. Paid Joshua Marshal Mason by Ord ^r 3 ^d Octob ^r 1673 - - - - -		1,000 00 00
Decem ^r 20. Paid Gabriell Cibber Sculpter Mason by Ord 18 th Deecmbr 1673 - - -		50 00 00

ffeb ^r 10.	Paid Joshua Marshall	li	s.	d.
	Mason by Ord ^r 18 th Decemb			
1673	- - - - -	1,000	00	00
1674.	Aprill 13. Paid Gabriell			
	Cibber more by Order dated			
9 th Aprill 1674	- - - - -	100	00	00
Aprill 28 [to] Septem ^r 26.	Paid			
	Mr. Joshua Marshall more			
	[at three different times] -	3,000	00	00
Octob ^r 14.	Paid Gabriell Cib-			
	ber more by Order dated			
16 th Septemb 1674	- - -	100	00	00
Decem ^r 23.	Paid Joshua Mar-			
	shall Mason by Ord 21 st Oc-			
tob ^r 1674	- - - - -	500	00	00
23.	Paid Gabriell Cibber more			
	by Ord 16 th Decem 1674 -	50	00	00
1675.	Aug. 17. Paid Joshua			
	Marshall Mason by Order			
28 th July 1675	- - - - -	500	00	00
21.	Paid Tho : Hodgeskins Smith			
	by Ord ^r dated 29 th July 1675	100	00	00
Sept. 9.	Paid M ^r Cibber more			
	by Ord ^r dated 28 th July 1675	50	00	00

Dec. 2. Paid Tho: Western for	li	s.	d.
W ^m Trench, Blacksmith by			
Order dated 10 th Novem ^r			
1675 on Accom ^{tt} for a Bell			
Cony [balcony] to bee sett			
up at the topp of the Pillar	100	00	00
23. Paid Anthony Tanner Brick-			
layer by Order dated 13th			
of Decem ^r 1675 in full for			
worke at the Column - - -	6	18	00
1676. Aprill 13. Paid Robert			
Bird Coppersmith by Order			
dated 12 th of Aprill 1676 on			
Accom ^{tt} for the Copper urne			
on the Pillar - - - - -	128	6	00
June 19. Paid W ^m ffrench by			
Order dated 7th June 1676			
for extraordinary charges			
about makeing and setting			
up the Belcony - - - - -	4	00	00
30. Paid unto Joshua Marshall			
Mason by Order dated 10 th			
Novem ^r 1676 v ^{cli} on Accom ^{tt}			
of the Pillar - - - - -	500	00	00
	12,347	12	00
	1,102	19	09
	13,450	11	09

The exact quantity of Portland stone contained in the column, as estimated by the architect, is as follows (*Parentalia*, p. 323):—

Feet.

The solidity of the whole fabrick, from the bottom of the lowest plinth to the black marble under the urn, the cylinder of the stair- case only deducted, and the stone for the carving not allowed for, is	37,396
The black marble that covers the capital	287
„ „ „ „ „ the lanthorn	64

From this solidity deduct—

For 8 great niches - - - - -	281
For 3 doors and passages - - -	289
For 3 sides reveyled - - - -	486
For rough block - - - - -	1,499
For rubble work - - - - -	7,185

In all - - - -	9,740
----------------	-------


The remainder is	27,656
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To this add, upon the account of the carvings in the front, the 4 great dragons and festoons - - - -	540
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There remains of solid Portland stone	28,196
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CHAPTER II.

THE SCULPTURE AND INSCRIPTIONS ON THE PEDESTAL.

N the west side of the pedestal, facing Fish Street Hill, is a basso-relievo by Caius Gabriel Cibber, the sculptor, which represents the King affording protection to the desolate city, and freedom to its rebuilders and inhabitants. The design is allegorical, and displays a female figure, representing the City of London, sitting on ruins in a languishing condition, her head hanging down, her hair dishevelled, and her left hand lying carelessly upon her sword. Behind is Time, with his wings and bald head, gradually raising her up. Another female figure by her side gently touches her with one

hand, and, with a winged sceptre in the other, points upwards to two goddesses sitting in the clouds, one with a cornucopia, denoting Plenty, the other having a palm branch in her left hand, signifying Peace. At her feet is a bee-hive, denoting Industry, by which the greatest difficulties can be surmounted. Underneath the figure of London, in the midst of the ruins, is a dragon supporting a shield bearing the arms of the City of London. Over her head are shown houses burning, and flames breaking out through the windows. Behind Time is a group of citizens raising their hands in encouragement.

Opposite these figures is a pavement of stone raised with three or four steps, on which stands King Charles II in a Roman costume, with a baton in his right hand and a laurel wreath on his head, coming towards the City of London, and commanding three of his attendants to descend to her relief. The first represents Science, with a winged head and a circle of naked boys dancing on it, and in her hand a figure of Nature with her numerous breasts ready to give assistance to all. The second is Architecture holding in the right hand a plan, and in the left a square

and compasses. The third figure is liberty, waving a cap in the air.

Behind the King stands his brother, the Duke of York, holding in one hand a garland to crown the rising city, and in the other an uplifted sword for her defence. The two figures behind are Justice with a coronet, and Fortitude with a reined lion. Above these figures are represented houses in building and labourers at work. Lastly, underneath the stone pavement on which the King stands, is a figure of Envy gnawing a heart and emitting pestiferous fumes from her envenomed mouth.

The general effect of the design has not been considered successful, but some of its details are excellent. The scaffolding, ladders, and hodmen are well represented, the dresses of the labourers being depicted with more fidelity than those of the monarch and his brother.

The three remaining sides of the pedestal are covered with Latin inscriptions. The inscription on the north side records the city's destruction, that on the south its restoration, and that on the east the years

and mayoralties in which the erection of the Monument was commenced, continued, and finished.

At a Court of Aldermen, held on the 4th October, 1677, Dr. Gale, master of St. Paul's School, afterwards Dean of York, was desired to consider of and devise a fitting inscription for the new pillar, and to consult with Sir Christopher Wren and Mr. Hooke thereon. On the 22nd of the same month, Dr. Gale's inscription was presented to the Court, and having been approved by his Majesty, was ordered to be inscribed forthwith. Three days later, the Court of Aldermen, "taking into their consideration the ingenious inscriptions prepared and presented unto this Court by Dr. Gale, for the new Pillar on fish-street Hill, doth order that Mr. Chamberlain doe deliver unto Mr. Lane, Comptroller of the Chamber, ten guineys to be placed on account of the cole-duty, and hee to lay out the same in a handsome piece of plate to be presented to the said Dr. Gale as a loveing remembrance from this Court." The following are the inscriptions, with a translation of each:—

INSCRIPTION ON THE NORTH SIDE.

Anno Christi cīdclxvi die iv nonas Septembris
 Hinc in orientem pedvm ccii intervallo qvæ est
 Hvivsce colvmnæ altitvdo ervplt de media nocte
 Incendivm qvōd vento spirante havsit etiam longinqva
 Et partes per omnes popvlabyndvm ferebatvr
 Cvm impetv et fragore incredibi' xxcix templa
 Portas prætorivm ædes pvplīcas ptochotrophīa
 Scholas bibliothecas insvlarvm magnvm nvmervm
 Domvvm ccīōō oo oo oo cc ° vicōs cđ absvmpsit
 De xxvi regionibvs xv fvnditvs delevit alias viii laceras
 Et semivstas reliqvīt vrbis cadaver ad cđxxxvi lvgera
 Hinc ab arce per Tamīsis ripam ad Templariorvm fanvm
 Illinc ab evro aqvilonali porta secvndvm muros
 Ad fossæ Fletanæ capvt porrexit adversvs opes civivm
 Et fortvnas infestvm erga vltas innocvum vt per omnia
 Referret svpremam illam mivndi exvstionem
 Velox clades fvīt exlgvum tempvs eandem vidit
 Civitatei florentissimam et nōllam
 Tertio die cvm iam plane evicerat hvmana consilia
 Et svbsidia omnia cœlitvs vt par est credere
 Ivssvs stetit fatalis ignis et qvaqvaversvm elangvit.
 ‡[Sed fvror Paplsticvs qvt tam dira patravīt nondvm
 restingvltvr.].

These curious figures are to be explained as follows:—ccīōō=10,000;
 oo oo oo is the sculptor's mistake for cīō cīō cīō, making 8,000 more,
 and cc = 200, making the total of 18,200. This total agrees with
 the official estimate of the number of houses destroyed.

‡ These last words were added in 1681.

TRANSLATION.

In the year of Christ 1666, on the 2nd of September, at a distance eastward from this place of 202 feet, which is the height of this column, a fire broke out in the dead of night, which, the wind blowing, devoured even distant buildings, and rushed devastating through every quarter with astonishing swiftness and noise. It consumed 89 churches, gates, the Guildhall, public edifices, hospitals, schools, libraries, a great number of blocks of buildings, 13,200 houses, 400 streets. Of the 26 wards, it utterly destroyed 15, and left 8 mutilated and half burnt. The ashes of the city covering as many as 436 acres, extended on one side from the Tower along the bank of the Thames to the church of the Templars, on the other side from the north-east gate along the walls to the head of Fleet-ditch. Merciless to the wealth and estates of the citizens it was harmless to their lives, so as throughout to remind us of the final destruction of the world by fire. The havoc was swift. A little space of time saw the same city most prosperous and no longer in being. On the third day, when it had now altogether vanquished all human counsel and resource, at the bidding, as we may well believe of heaven, the fatal fire stayed its course and everywhere died out. * [But Popish frenzy, which wrought such horrors, is not yet quenched].

* These last words were added in 1681.

INSCRIPTION ON THE SOUTH SIDE.

Carolvs II C. Mart. F. Mag. Brit. Fran. et Hib. Rex. Fid. D.
 Princeps clementissimvs miseratvs luctuosam rerum
 Faciem plurima fvmantibvs iam tum ruinis in solatium
 Civium et vrbls svæ ornamentvm providit tributvm
 Remisit preces ordlnis et popvli Londinensis retvllt
 Ad regni senatvm qvī continuo decrevit vti pvblica
 Opera pecunia pvblica ex vectigall carbonis fossilis
 Oriunda in mellorem formam restitverentvr vtiqve ædes
 Sacræ et D Pavli templvm a fvndamentis omni magul-
 ficientia extrverentvr pontes portæ carceres novi
 Flerent emvndarentvr alvei vici ad regvlam respon-
 derent clivi complanarentvr aperirentvr angipor-
 tus fora et macella in areas sepositas eliminaren-
 tvr censvit etiam vti singvlæ domvs mvrīs inter-
 gerinis conclvderentvr vniversæ in frontem pari
 Altitvdine consvgerent omnes qve parietes saxo
 Qvadrato avt cocto latere solidarentvr vtiqve
 Nemini liceret vltra septennivm ædificando immo-
 rari ad hæc lites de terminis oritvras lege lata
 Præscidit adiecit qvoqve svpplicationes annvas et
 Ad æternam posterorvm memoriam H. C. P. C.
 Festinatvr vndiqve resvrgit Loadnvū maiori celerita-
 te an splendore incertvm vñvm triennivm absolvit
 Qvod sæculi opvs credebatur.

TRANSLATION.

Charles the Second, son of Charles the Martyr, king of Great Britain, France and Ireland, defender of the faith, a most gracious prince, commiserating the deplorable state of things, whilst the ruins were yet smoking, provided for the comfort of his citizens, and the ornament of his city; remitted their taxes, and referred the petitions of the magistrates and inhabitants of London to the Parliament; who immediately passed an Act, that public works should be restored to greater beauty, with public money, to be raised by an imposition on coals; that churches, and the cathedral of St. Paul's, should be re-built from their foundations, with all magnificence; that the bridges, gates, and prisons should be new made, the sewers cleansed, the streets made straight and regular, such as were steep levelled and those too narrow made wider, markets and shambles removed to separate places. They also enacted, that every house should be built with party-walls, and all raised of an equal height in front, and that all house walls should be strengthened with stone or brick; and that no man should delay building beyond the space of seven years. Furthermore, he procured an Act to settle beforehand the suits which should arise respecting boundaries, he also established an annual service of intercession, and caused this column to be erected as a perpetual memorial to posterity. Haste is seen everywhere, London rises again, whether with greater speed or greater magnificence is doubtful, three short years complete that which was considered the work of an age.

INSCRIPTION ON THE EAST SIDE.

INCEPTA

RICHARDO FORD EQUITE :
 PRÆTORE LOND : A.D. MDCLXXI
 PERDVCTA ALTIVS

GEORGIO WATERMAN EQ : PV
 ROBERTO HANSON EQ : PV
 GVLIELMO HOOKER EQ : PV
 ROBERTO VINER EQ : PV
 JOSEPHO SHELDON EQ : PV

PERFECTA

THOMA DAVIES EQ : PRÆ : VRB ·
 ANNO DNI. MDCLXXVII

TRANSLATION.

[This Pillar was] begun, Sir Richard Ford, knt., being Lord Mayor of London, in the year 1671 ; carried higher in the Mayoralties of Sir George Waterman, knt., Sir Robert Hanson, knt., Sir William Hooker, knt., Sir Robert Viner, knt., and Sir Joseph Sheldon, knt. ; and finished in the Mayoralty of Sir Thomas Davies, in the year of the Lord 1677.

The following entries in the City records occur *three years after the completion of the Monument and its inscriptions*. They clearly show that the Monument was originally erected simply to perpetuate the memory of the dreadful Fire of London, and that the idea of publicly ascribing the calamity to the intentional designs of the Papists was not formed until after the so-called discovery of the Popish plot, by Titus Oates, in 1678. At a Court of Common Council, held on the 12th November, 1680, it was ordered “that Mr. Comptroller, takeing to his assistance such persons as he shall think fitt, doe compose and draw up an inscription in Latin and English, to be affixed on the Monument on Fish-Street Hill, signifying that the City of London was burnt and consumed with fire by the treachery and malice of the papists in September in the year of Our Lord 1666.”

The Comptroller was not so prompt in the execution of his duty as Dr. Gale, perhaps owing to the delicate nature of his task. On the 17th June, in the following year, he presented, at a Court of Common Council, an inscription in Latin and English. The Latin is as follows: Sed furor papisticus qui tam

dira patravit nondum restinguitur “ w’ch he conceives might properly be added to the p’sent inscripc’on on the north side thereof, after these words: ‘ stetit Fatalis Ignis et quaquaversum elanguit.’ ” The English inscription follows in these words:—“ ‘ This pillar was sett up in perpetuell remembrance of the most dreadful Burning of this Protestant City, begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction, in the beginning of September, in the year of our Lord 1666, in order to the effecting of their horrid plot for the extirpating the protestant religion, and English liberties, and to introduce popery and slavery;’ which said inscripc’ons being read, this Court doth very well like and approve of them, and doth order that the same shall be forthwith affixed on the said Monument in the most convenient parts thereof att the direccon and appoint^{mt} of the Rt. Hon^{ble} the Lord Mayor and Court of Ald^{men} And it is likewise ordered that another inscripc’on in English now p’sented by Mr. Comptroller and read in this Court and agreed on shall be likewise forthwith affixed on the front of the house where the said fire began, at the like appointment of the Lord Mayor and

Court of Ald^{men} w^{ch} said inscrip[']on is in these words "':—

HERE BY Y ^E PERMISSION OF HEAVEN HELL BROKE LOOSE
UPON THIS PROTESTANT CITY FROM THE MALICIOUS
HEARTS OF BARBAROUS PAPISTS, BY Y ^E HAND OF THEIR
AGENT HUBERT, WHO CONFESSED, AND ON Y ^E RUINES
OF THIS PLACE DECLARED THE FACT, FOR WHICH HE
WAS HANGED, (VIZT.) THAT HERE BEGAN THAT DRED
-FULL FIRE, WHICH IS DESCRIBED AND PERPETUATED
ON AND BY THE NEIGHBOURING PILLAR.

ERECTED ANNO 1681, IN THE MAJORALTIE OF
S^R PATIENCE WARD K^T.

The two following resolutions were also passed by the Court of Aldermen:—

“ 23rd day of June, 1681. The Right Hon[']ble the Lord Mayor is desired by this Court to direct the setting up the Inscriptions lately agreed to in Common Counsell touching the firing of this City by the Papists, A.D. 1666, upon the Pillar on Fish St. Hill and the House where the Fire began, in such manner as his Lordship shall think convenient.”

“ 12th July, 1681. It is now agreed by this

Court that the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, who was desired by this Court to cause the additionall inscriptions lately agreed to in Common Counsell, to be set up on the Pillar of Fish Street Hill, doe in order thereunto cause the Inscription already made on the said Pillar, or such part thereof as his Lordship shall think convenient, to be taken out and anew engraved, the better to make way for the said additional Inscription."

Soon after the accession of James II, the additional inscriptions were obliterated and removed. But the order was reversed on the accession of William III, in accordance with the following minute:—

Court of Common Council, 16th September, 1689. "It is unaniemously agreeede and ordered by this Court that the two severall Inscript'ons formerly sett up by order of this Court in the Mayoralty of Sr Patience Ward, on the Monument and the house where the dreadfull fire began (which have been since taken down,) be again sett upp in their former places, and that Mr. Chamb'laine and Mr. Comptroller doe se the same done accordingly."

The objectionable additions were finally

removed, under an order of the Court of Common Council dated the 6th December, 1830. At this time, probably, the stone was also removed from the house in Pudding Lane. This wise decision, besides setting right historical facts, removes from the Monument the obloquy expressed in Pope's well-known lines—

Where London's column pointing at the skies,
Like a tall bully, lifts the head, and lies.



CHAPTER III.

HISTORICAL INCIDENTS AND LITERARY NOTICES.

IN accordance with Wren's original intention, the column was at first used as a place for certain experiments of the Royal Society; but the vibration caused by the ceaseless traffic proved too great to allow of the experiments being successfully carried on.

Evelyn wished that the column had been placed where the fire ended, and "a plain lugubrious marble" where it began. He says, "I question not but I have the architect himself on my side, whose rare and extraordinary talent, and what he has performed of great and magnificent, this column, and what he is still about and is advancing under his direction will speak and perpetuate his memory, as long as one stone remains upon another in this nation."

Roger North, in his life of his brother,

Sir Dudley North, thus describes an amusing adventure of Sir Dudley, in climbing to the summit of the Monument. "He took pleasure in surveying the Monument and comparing it with mosque towers, and what, of that kind, he had seen abroad. We mounted up to the top, and, one after another, crept up the hollow iron frame that carries the copper head and flames above. We went out at a rising plate of iron that hinged, and there found convenient irons to hold by. We made use of them, and raised our bodies entirely above the flames, having only our legs, to the knees, within; and there we stood till we were satisfied with the prospects from thence. I cannot describe how hard it was to persuade ourselves we stood safe; so likely did our weight seem to throw down the whole fabric."

The following is taken from Read's *Weekly Journal*, September 26th, 1730:—Last Thursday a nimble little drawer at the Baptist Head Tavern in the Old Baily ran up to the gallery on the top of the Monument and down again, for a considerable wager laid by some gentlemen frequenting the house. He had three minutes to do it in, but performed it in

two minutes and a half and two seconds; which is look'd upon as an extraordinary performance of the kind, and [what] not one in an hundred of the fraternity can do. We hear that as he was running down he often cry'd 'Coming, Coming, Sir!' "

In the *Daily Journal* of 16th September, 1732, appears this account of a sailor's fool-hardy adventure:—"Yesterday, about 5 o'clock in the evening, notwithstanding the wind was so high, a sailor flew from the top of the Monument to the Upper Three Tuns tavern in Gracechurch-street, which he did in less than half a minute: there was a numerous crowd of spectators to see him. He came down within 20 feet of the place where the rope was fixed, and then flung himself off; and offered, if the gentlemen would make him a handsome collection, he would go up and fly down again. In the morning, when the rope was tied round the Monument, a waterman's boy paid for going up to the gallery, but in his return, finding the stairs crowded, he thought the quickest way down again was by the rope, and he accordingly swung down upon it, as it hung loose into the Monument Yard, without receiving any injury."

The Monument does not escape Ned Ward's satire, but forms the subject of a somewhat gross burlesque in his *London Spy*: " ' Now, says my friend, ' I'll show you a towering edifice, erected thro' the wisdom and honesty of the city, as a very high memorandum of its being laid low, either by a judgment from heaven for the sins of the people, or by the treachery of the papists, according to the inscription of the Monument, who, I suppose, as ignorant of the matter as myself; for that was neither built then, or I born: so I believe we are equally as able to tell the truth of the story, as a quack astrologer is by the assistance of the signs and planets, what was the name of Moses's great grand-father, or how many quarts of water went to the world's drowning. You'll be mightily pleas'd with the loftiness of this slender column, for its very height was the first thing that ever occasioned wry necks in England, by the peoples staring at the top on't. What! is it of no use, but only to gaze at? Astrologers go often to the top on't . . . though the chief use of it is for the improvement of vintners' boys and drawers, who come every week to exercise their supporters, and learn

the tavern-trip, by running up the balcony and down again, which fixes them in a nimble step, and makes them rare light-heeled emissaries in a months practice. Do you observe the carving, which contains the king and his brothers pictures? They were cut by an eminent artist, and are look'd upon by a great many impartial judges to be a couple of extraordinary good figures.' "

The following humorous account by Addison of his visit to the Monument with his friend the Tory fox-hunter is taken from "The Freeholder," No. 47:—"After having here satiated our curiosity we repaired to the Monument, where my fellow traveller, being a well-breathed man, mounted the ascent with much speed and activity. I was forced to halt so often in this perpendicular march that, upon my joining him on the top of the pillar, I found he had counted all the steeples and towers which were discernible from this advantageous situation, and was endeavouring to compute the number of acres they stood upon. We were both of us very well pleased with this part of the prospect; but I found he cast an evil eye upon several warehouses, and other buildings, that looked

like barns, and seemed capable of receiving great multitudes of people. His heart misgave him that these were so many meeting-houses, but, upon communicating his suspicions to me, I soon made him easy in this particular. We then turned our eyes upon the river, which gave me an occasion to inspire him with some favourable thoughts of trade and merchandise, that had filled the Thames with such crowds of ships, and covered the shore with such swarms of people.

We descended very leisurely, my friend being careful to count the steps, which he registered in a blank leaf of his new almanac. Upon our coming to the bottom, observing an English inscription upon the basis, he read it over several times, and told me he could scarce believe his own eyes, for that he had often heard from an old attorney, who lived near him in the country, that it was the Presbyterians who burned down the city; whereas, says he, this pillar positively affirms in so many words, that 'the burning of this ancient city was begun and carried on by the treachery and malice of the popish faction, in order to the carrying on their horrid plot

for extirpating the Protestant religion, and old English liberty, and introducing popery and slavery.' This account, which he looked upon to be more authentic, than if it had been in print, I found made a very great impression upon him."

Conversation Sharp used to point out a house at the corner of Monument Yard where Goldsmith, when in destitute circumstances in London, filled for a short time the situation of shopman to a chemist named Jacobi.

On the 31st of December, 1857, Mr. John Hollingshead, the well-known writer, spent the whole night on the top of the Monument, and has given in his "Under Bow Bells" an interesting and graphic account of his experience and of the changing appearance of London as seen from that height through the successive hours of evening, night, and morning.

On the 15th June, 1825, the Monument was illuminated with portable gas, in commemoration of the laying of the first stone of London Bridge. A lamp was placed at each of the loopholes of the column, to give the idea of its being wreathed with flames, whilst two other series were placed on the edges of the

gallery, to which the public were admitted during the evening.

In one of the London daily journals of August 22nd, 1827, there appeared the following burlesque advertisement:—"Incredible as it may appear, a person will attend at the Monument, and will, for the sum of £2,500, undertake to JUMP clear off the said Monument, and in coming down will drink some beer and eat a cake, act some trades, shorten and make sail, and bring ship safe to anchor. As soon as the sum stated is collected, the performance will take place; and if not performed, the money subscribed to be returned to the subscribers."

A curious circumstance connected with the Monument occasioned the publication, in 1847, of a booklet, entitled "History of the Life and Adventures of a mouse, written by himself." The preface informs us that a mouse took up its abode at the Monument, and remained there for nearly two years. It became latterly so tame as to suffer itself to be handled, and to take food from a person's hand, without showing fear or attempting to escape, and might be seen sitting by the fire or running about during the greater part of

the day. The poor little creature met with a tragic end on the 8th November, 1847, a few days after its memoirs were printed. Its death was occasioned by a piece of a burning cigar being accidentally thrown upon it."

On the 18th November, 1852, by permission of the City Lands Committee, a party of four artillery men of the Royal Artillery were stationed on the Monument for the purpose of passing signals to the Tower from St. Paul's Cathedral, on the occasion of the funeral of the Duke of Wellington.

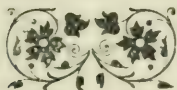
On the 25th June, 1750, William Green, a weaver, whilst reaching over the railing of the balcony to look at a live eagle kept there in a cage, accidentally lost his balance, and fell over against the top of the pedestal, thence into the street, and was killed. Six persons have committed suicide by throwing themselves from the Monument gallery: (1) John Cradock, a baker, 7th July, 1788; (2) Lyon Levi, a Jewish diamond merchant, 18th January, 1810; (3) a baker named Leander, in the same year; (4) Margaret Moyes, daughter of a baker in Hemmings-row, 11th September, 1839; (5) Robert Donaldson Hawes, a boy, age 15, 18th October, 1839; (6) Jane Cooper,

a servant girl living at Hoxton, 19th August. 1842. After this last tragedy the building was temporarily closed, and the gallery was enclosed with an iron cage.

The column has undergone frequent repairs and embellishments. In May, 1834, it was completely renovated, a scaffolding being erected from the gallery to the top of the urn in order that it might be repaired and re-gilded. The construction of the scaffolding was very ingenious, and much courage and skill were displayed by the workmen in its erection. The last repairs to the Monument took place in 1888, when the ornamentation to the abacus was removed, having been originally fastened with iron bolts, a plan long since obsolete among architects. A swinging scaffolding was put up and the structure examined from top to bottom. The result showed the remarkable strength and soundness of the column; the stone being of splendid quality. The building is now in as good a condition as ever. On this occasion accurate measurements of the entire column were taken, and careful drawings prepared under the direction of the late City architect. The drawings include an elevation of the east

side, with the entrance to the Monument, and give every detail of the decorations, on a scale of 8 feet to an inch. There was also a vertical section of the whole column with exact dimensions, and four transverse sections.

The great majority of the visitors to the Monument are persons living in the country or abroad; the number of admissions during the year 1897 reached the large total of 50,706. The building is under the authority of the Committee for letting the City's Lands.



CHAPTER IV.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE GREAT FIRE OF LONDON.



DESCRIPTION of the Monument would not be complete without an account of the dreadful conflagration which it was erected to commemorate.-A contemporary and official record appeared in two issues of the *London Gazette*. The first is dated Sunday, 2nd September, 1666, the day of the outbreak of the conflagration. The second appeared six days later, the regular issue of the paper having been interrupted by the great calamity. These important and interesting records merit a full reproduction.

“The London Gazette, Sunday, Sept. 2, 1666.

About two a clock this morning a sudden and lamentable fire brake out in this city, beginning not far from Thames Street, near

London Bridge, which continues still with great violence, and hath already burnt down to the ground many houses thereabouts; which sad accident affected His Majesty with that tenderness, and compassion, that he was pleased to go himself in person, with his Royal Highness, to give order that all possible means should be used for quenching the fire, or stopping its further spreading. In which case, the Right Honourable the Earl of Craven was sent by His Majesty, to be more particularly assisting to the Lord Mayor and magistrates; and several companies of his guards sent into the City, to be helpful by what ways they could in so great a calamity."

" The London Gazette, September 8, 1666.

The ordinary course of this paper having been interrupted by a sad and lamentable accident of fire lately hapned in the City of *London*: It hath been thought fit for satisfying the minds of so many of His Majesties good subjects who must needs be concerned for the issue of so great an accident to give this short, but true accompt of it.

On the second instant at one of the clock

in the morning there hapned to break out a sad deplorable fire in Pudding Lane, neer New Fish Street, which falling out at that hour of the night, and in a quarter of the town so close built with wooden pitched houses, spread itself so far before day, and with such distraction to the inhabitants and neighbours, that care was not taken for the timely preventing the further diffusion of it, by pulling down houses, as ought to have been; so that this lamentable fire in a short time became too big to be mastred by any engines or working neer it. It fell out most unhappily too, that a violent easterly wind fomented it, and kept it burning all that day, and the night following, spreading itself up to Gracechurch Street, and downwards from Cannon Street, to the waterside as far as the Three Cranes in the Vintrey.

The people in all parts about it distracted by the vastness of it, and their particular care to carry away their goods, many attempts weré made to prevent the spreading of it by pulling down houses, and making great intervals, but all in vain, the fire seising upon the timber and rubbish and so continuing itself, even through those spaces, and raging

in a bright flame all Monday and Tuesday, notwithstanding His Majesty's own, and His Royal Highness's indefatigable and personal pains to apply all possible remedies to prevent it, calling upon and helping the people with their guards; and a great number of nobility and gentry unweariedly assisting therein, for which they were requited with a thousand blessings from the poor distressed people. By the favour of God the wind slackned a little on Tuesday night and the flames meeting with Brick-buildings at the Temple, by little and little it was observed to lose its force on that side, so that on Wednesday morning we began to hope well, and his Royal Highness never despairing nor slackning his personal care, wrought so well that day, assisted in some parts by the Lords of the Councel before and behind it, that a stop was put to it at the Temple Church, neer Holborn Bridge, Pie Corner, Aldersgate, Cripplegate, neer the lower end of Coleman Street, at the end of Basinghall Street, and by the Postern, at the upper end of Bishopsgate Street and Leadenhall Street, at the Standard in Cornhill, at the Church in Fanchurch Street, near Clothworkers' Hall in Mincing

Lane, at the middle of Mark Lane, and at the Tower Dock.

On Thursday, by the blessing of God it was wholly beat down and extinguished. But so as that evening it unhappily burst out again afresh at the Temple, by the falling of some sparks (as is supposed) upon a pile of wooden buildings; but his Royal Highness, who watched there that whole night in person, by the great labours and diligence used, and especially by applying powder to blow up the houses about it, before day most happily mastered it.

Divers strangers, Dutch and French, were, during the fire, apprehended upon suspicion that they contributed mischevously to it, who are all imprisoned, and informations prepared, to make a severe inquisition hereupon by my Lord Chief Justice Keeling, assisted by some of the Lords of the Privy Council, and some principal members of the City, notwithstanding which suspicions, the manner of the burning along in a train, and so blown forwards in all its way by strong winds, makes us conclude the whole was the effect of an unhappy chance, or to speak better, the heavy hand of God upon us for our sins, showing us

the terrour of his judgment in thus raising the fire, and immediately after his miraculous and never enough to be acknowledged mercy in putting a stop to it when we were in the last despair, and that all attempts for the quenching of it, however industriously pursued, seemed insufficient. His Majesty then sat hourly in council, and ever since hath continued making rounds about the City in all parts of it where the danger and mischief was greatest, till this morning that he had sent his Grace the Duke of Albemarle, whom he hath called for to assist him in this great occasion, to put his happy and successful hand to the finishing this memorable deliverance.

About the Tower the seasonable orders giving for plucking down houses to secure the magazines of powder, was more especially successful, that part being up the wind, notwithstanding which it came almost to the very gates of it, so as by this early provision, the several stores of war lodged in the Tower were entirely saved: And we have further this infinite cause particularly to give God thanks, that the fire did not happen in any of those places where His Majesties naval stores are kept, so as tho it hath pleased God to visit

us with His own hand, He hath not, by disfurnishing us with the means of carrying on the war, subjected us to our enemies.

It must be observed, that this fire happened in a part of the town, where tho the commodities were not very rich, yet they were so bulky that they could not well be removed, so that the inhabitants of that part where it first began have sustained very great loss, but by the best enquiry we can make, the other parts of the town, where the commodities were of greater value, took the alarm so early that they saved most of their goods of value, which possibly may have diminished the loss, tho some think, that if the whole industry of the inhabitants had been applyed to the stopping of the fire, and not to the saving of their particular goods, the success might have been much better, not only to the publick, but to many of them in their own particulars.

Through this sad accident it is easie to be imagined how many persons were necessitated to remove themselves and goods into the open fields, where they were forced to continue

some time, which could not but work compassion in the beholders, but his Majesties care was most signal in this occasion, who, besides his personal pains, was frequent in consulting all ways for relieving those distressed persons, which produced so good effect, as well by his Majesties proclamations, and the orders issued to the neighbour justices of the peace to encourage the sending in provisions to the markets, which are publicly known, as by other directions, that when his Majesty, fearing lest other orders might not yet have been sufficient, had commanded the victualler of his navy to send bread into Moorfields for the relief of the poor, which for the more speedy supply he sent in bisket, out of the sea stores; it was found that the markets had been already so well supplied that the people, being unaccustomed to that kind of bread, declined it, and so it was returned in great part to his Majesties stores again, without any use made of it.

And we cannot but observe to the confutation of all his Majesties enemies, who endeav-

our to perswade the world abroad of great parties and disaffection at home against his Majesties Government; that a greater instance of the affections of this city could never be given them hath been now given in this sad and deplorable accident, when if at any time disorder might have been expected from the losses, distraction and almost desperation of some persons in their private fortunes, thousands of people not having had habitations to cover them. And yet in all this time it hath been so far from any appearance of designs or attempts against his Majesties Government, that his Majesty and his royal brother, out of their care to stop and prevent the fire, frequently exposing their persons with very small attendants, in all parts of the town, sometimes even to be intermixed with those who laboured in the business yet nevertheless there hath not been observed so much as a murmuring word to fall from any, but on the contrary, even those persons whose losses rendred their conditions most desperate, and to be fit objects of other

prayers, beholding these frequent instances of his Majesties care of his people, forgot their own misery, and filled the streets with their prayers for his Majesty, whose trouble they seemed to compassionate before their own."

From other contemporary accounts, it appears that in the destruction caused by this terrible calamity, the general public opinion attributed its origin to the deliberate acts of papists and foreign emissaries. This belief was intensified by the trial at the Old Bailey of the unhappy Hubert, who was charged, upon his own confession, with setting fire to the baker's house where the fire originated. He persisted in his story to the last moment of his execution. The testimony of subsequent writers points to the conclusion that he was a man of weak intellect, and that his guilt existed only in his imagination.

A committee was appointed by the House of Commons on the 25th September, "to enquire into the causes of the late Fire," and their report, issued on 22nd January, 1666-7,

is entitled: "A true and faithful account of the several informations exhibited to the hon. Committee appointed by the Parliament to enquire into the late dreadful Firing of the City of London. Together with other informations touching the insolency of Popish priests and Jesuits and the increase of Popery; brought to the hon. Committee appointed by the Parliament for that purpose. Printed in the year 1667." The Report of the Committee is printed in Howell's State Trials, 1816, Vol. vi, coll. 807-866.

The result of this exhaustive enquiry was to entirely disprove the popular belief. The following memorandum by Williamson, Secretary of State, is preserved among the State Papers dated September, 1666:—"That after many careful examinations by Council and His Majesty's ministers, nothing has been found to argue the fire in London to have been caused by other than the hand of God, a great wind, and a very dry season."

Some writers went to the length of affirming that the Fire was intentionally caused

by the Government itself, to purge the City from the plague, and re-construct it on a grander scale.

Samuel Pepys was an eye-witness of the conflagration, almost from its outbreak. Mounting one of the high buildings in the Tower, about ten o'clock on the morning of the 2nd of September, he beheld all the houses at the north end of London Bridge on fire, "and an infinite great fire on this, and the other side the end of the bridge." Going down to his friend, the Lieutenant, the latter told him that the Fire "began this morning in the king's baker's house in Pudding Lane, and that it hath burnt down St. Magnus's Church, and most part of Fish street, already." Thence he traced its course to the Old Swan, and the Steel yard, and making his way to Whitehall, he was summoned to tell the King and Duke of York what he had seen. From the King he received orders "to go to my Lord Mayor from him, and command him to spare no houses, but to pull down before the fire every way. The Duke of

York bid me tell him, that if he would have more soldiers, he shall; and so did my Lord Arlington afterwards as a great secret." His way lay by " Paul's," and down Watling Street, where he " at last met my Lord Mayor in Canning Street, like a man spent, with a handkercher about his neck. To the King's message, he cried, like a fainting woman, ' Lord! what can I do? I am spent: people will not obey me. I have been pulling down houses; but the fire overtakes us faster than we can do it.' That he needed no more soldiers; and that, for himself, he must go and refresh himself, having been up all night."

Pepys, continuing his walk on this awful Sunday, saw the churches " all filling with goods by people who themselves should have been quietly there by this time." In the afternoon he met the King and Duke of York in their barge, and saw the " river full of lighters and boats taking in goods, and good goods swimming in the water." Towards night he watched the growth of the fire from a little ale house on the Bankside. It ap-

peared "a most horrid malicious bloody flame, not like the flame of an ordinary fire." Later still, he "saw the fire as only one entire arch of fire . . . above a mile long." On Wednesday morning, being at Woolwich before day-break to place his gold in safety, he saw "the whole City almost on fire, as plain as if you were by it." Space will not allow of further quotations from Pepys's graphic description, which, with Evelyn's almost equally interesting account, is well known.

In striking contrast with the feebleness of the Lord Mayor, were the energetic personal services rendered by the King and the Duke of York, in whose praise all writers agree. The chief causes of the rapid spread of the fire were the raging east wind which blew burning flakes in all directions, the haste of the inhabitants to save their goods, and their objections to blowing up such houses as were necessary to stop the progress of the flames. Besides this there was a scarcity of water, but had the supply been plentiful it is doubtful

whether the feeble fire engines then in use would have availed to check the conflagration. In the Guildhall Museum can be seen the fire engine employed at Guildhall in 1687, twenty-one years after the fire, with two others belonging to the ward of Aldgate (1672), and the parish of St. Dionis Backchurch. These "engines" are brass hand squirts, the largest being 3 feet long, with a diameter of 3 inches. The most valuable help which the citizens received was from the soldiers supplied by the Duke of York, who assisted in blowing up houses, by which means the progress of the fire was at length stopped.

All writers concur in representing the Fire of London to have begun in Pudding Lane, a narrow thoroughfare crowded with old timber buildings.

The next place view'd was where the flame began,
 From empty'd Tripes called Pudding lane :
 And ne're (said she) to greater honour rise,
 Thou source of London's Tragedies.

The houses here were mostly of timber, very closely built, and according to the

custom then prevailing, had constant and fierce fires kept in the hearths every night.

The insignificance of this spot, from whence originated so mighty a destruction, makes Rolle compare its efforts to “ the killing of the great giant Goliah by a pibble-stone flung from the sling and arm of little David; or the slaying of a thousand Philistines with the jaw-bone of an ass; or the throwing down the walls of Jericho with the sound of rams-horns.”

By the certificate of Jonas Moore and Ralph Gatrix, the surveyors appointed to examine the ruins, it appeared that the fire over-ran 373 acres of ground within the walls, and 63 acres 3 roods without the walls; 13,200 houses, and 89 parish churches, besides chapels, were burnt; only 11 parishes within the walls escaped destruction; and only 75 acres 3 roods within the walls remained unburnt.

The damage caused by the Great Fire is estimated, in Strype's edition of Stow's Survey, to have amounted to £10,730,500.

Pepys considers that the loss of annual rental in consequence of the destruction of houses was £600,000.

While the City lay in ruins several temporary conveniences were formed for the benefit of the public. Tabernacles were erected in various places for the conduct of divine worship. The gardens or walks of Gresham College were converted into an exchange for the merchants, and in its apartments also the public business of the City was transacted, instead of at the Guildhall; the first meeting of the Court of Aldermen after the fire being held there on Thursday afternoon, the 6th of September. The Royal Society, being thus excluded from Gresham College, was removed to Arundel House. Special places were also appointed as temporary markets for provisions. The Excise Office was provided for in Southampton Fields, near Bedford House; the General Post Office was removed to Bridges street, Covent Garden; the affairs of the Custom House were transacted in Mark lane; the

King's Wardrobe was removed from Puddle Wharf to York Buildings; and the official business of Doctors' Commons was transacted in Exeter House, in the Strand.

The temporary distress which the Fire had occasioned was ameliorated by the attention which the Government, the Corporation, and all classes of the community showed for the relief and comfort of the citizens. Persons whose houses had been destroyed were allowed to build sheds on London Bridge, in the Artillery Ground, and other vacant places. Tents were erected for the poor in Finsbury Fields.

Moore-fields with piles of goods are fill'd, and there
Their owners lie abroad in th' open air.

By the statute of 19 Charles II (1667), chap. 2, any three or more of the judges were constituted a Court of Judicature to hear and determine all differences respecting buildings destroyed by the Fire. Their orders were to be final and binding to the parties and their representatives for ever. The Court sat at

Clifford's Inn, and its judgments, extending from 1667 to 1673, are contained in a series of nine books, entitled *Five decrees*, which were deposited and still remain in the Guildhall under the custody of the Town Clerk. In gratitude to the judges for their assiduous labours, the Corporation of London caused their portraits, painted in full length by Michael Wright, to be set up in the Guildhall. Wright received for each portrait £60. Sir Peter Lely first received the commission, "but refusing to wait on the Judges at their own chambers, Wright got the business."

The anniversary of the great calamity was ordered to be observed as a day of civic humiliation by the statute 19 Charles II, chapter 3, section 28, which provided, "That the said citizens and their successors for all the time to come, may retain the memoriall of soe sadd a desolation, and reflect seriously upon their manifold iniquities, which are the unhappy causes of such judgements: Be it further enacted, That the second day of September (unless the same happen to be

Sunday, and if so then the next day following) be yearely for ever hereafter observed as a day of Publique fasting and humiliation within the said citty and libertyes thereof, to implore the mercies of Almighty God upon the said citty, to make devout prayers and supplication unto him to divert the like calamity for the time to come.”

The Lord Mayor and Corporation accordingly attended St. Paul's Cathedral each year in state. The Aldermen were summoned to meet in the Corporation vestry, in their scarlet gowns. The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs went from the Mansion House in State to St. Paul's, where they met the Aldermen, and proceeded into the choir to hear divine service and a sermon preached by the Lord Mayor's Chaplain. Afterwards the Lord Mayor and Aldermen returned to the Mansion House.

The immediate danger over, preparations for re-building the City at once began. The King issued a proclamation on the 13th September for a general fast and humiliation, and for collections to be made in all churches:

and chapels for the benefit of the poor. He also prohibited the erection of "hasty and unskilful buildings," or the use of any other material than stone or brick for building, ordering a survey of the City to be made, and promising to "cause a plot or model to be made for the whole building through those ruined places."

In order to encourage workmen in the various branches of the building trade to use their best efforts to prosecute the re-building of the City with all speed, the Act of 1667 provided that "foreigners" or non-freemen should have the liberty to work in these trades for the space of seven years from 1667, and afterwards until the City should be finished. If they completed the seven years they were to retain the same privilege for life. (19 Charles II, chap. 3, sect. 18.) This regulation is supposed to be typified by the figure of Liberty in Cibber's sculpture described on pp. 15-17.

A further proclamation from the King was issued from Whitehall on 26th September,

1668, "touching the charitable collections for the relief of the poor, distressed by the late dismal fire in the City of London." This was followed in 1670 by an additional act (22 Charles II, chap. 2), for re-building the City, uniting various parishes, and re-building the Cathedral and parochial churches.

Both the survey of the ruins and the model or plan for re-building the City were placed by the King in the hands of Sir Christopher Wren. This plan, could it have been carried out, would, as stated in the "Parentalia," have made "the new city the most magnificent, as well as commodious for health and trade of any upon earth." One of the greatest improvements was the intended re-construction, not only of the spacious quay which had existed in the parish of St. Michael, Crooked Lane, in the days of Fitzstephen, but the continuation of a similar quay along the whole northern bank of the Thames, from the Tower to the Temple.

Wren's plan was to have left the part of this terrace between Billingsgate and Dow-

gate of nearly double the width of the rest; to have opened a large space between the Bridge foot and Crooked Lane, which would have widened the confined corners of Upper and Lower Thames Streets; and to have terminated the area with a semi-circular piazza, ranging with Crooked Lane and Monument Yard, from which were to diverge principal streets to various parts of the metropolis.

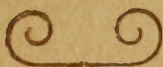
Sir John Evelyn also prepared a plan, which would have restored the City to a state of much greater grandeur and convenience. Both of these plans were, however, prevented from being carried out by the obstinate objections of the citizens to alter their properties, or allow their houses to be rebuilt otherwise than on the old foundations.

However grievous a calamity to the inhabitants of that period, and lamentable as was the destruction which it occasioned to records, books, and works of art, the Great Fire was, in its after consequences, a great blessing to the City and its inhabitants. It stamped out

the plague, from which London had only been free for three years out of the previous seventy and more. Maitland, writing in 1755, says, "there's no place in the kingdom, where the inhabitants enjoy a better state of health, or live to a greater age, than the citizens of London." Walford, in his "Insurance Cyclopædia," mentions other advantages which were brought about by the fire: "1. The actual adoption of Fire insurance in England, commencing in the metropolis the very next year; and, 2, its more general diffusion through Europe. The Municipal Fire Casse of Hamburg was set on foot in 1667, and the lesson of London's Great Fire induced measures of fire protection in every principal city and town in Europe."







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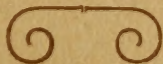
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